

News from Avon Township

Stephen Saupe, Clerk
Avon Township
16881 Queens Road
Avon, MN 56310; (320) 248 – 8036; clerk@avontownship.org

Contribution submitted for News from Avon Township – May 15, 2019

Avon Township has a great working relationship with the City of Avon. As an example, consider our Orderly Annexation Agreement. This document specifies how land is transferred from the Township into the City.

This document prevents the City from simply grabbing Township land, and it prevents the Town from opposing a reasonable request to annex a property adjacent to the City. A Joint Planning Commission (JPC), with equal representation from both the City and Township, was created to make decisions concerning annexations and other issues related to both governmental units.

You may be familiar with a recent example of how this process works. A resident requested transferring a portion of his property to the City to build a Dollar General store on the site. The JPC was convened to discuss and vote on the request.

After hearing the evidence, the JPC voted to approve the request. Though there was some disagreement and the vote in favor of annexation wasn't unanimous, it shows that the process works.

Now that the parcel will become part of the City of Avon, the City is working on various details (*i.e.*, evaluation of the comprehensive plan, site review, storm water management plan review). At this point, there is still no guarantee that the City will issue the "green light" to the project. However, if approved Dollar General will construct a pre-engineered metal building with a concrete foundation at the intersection of Angelfish Avenue and County Road 155, near Avon Elementary School.

According to the developer, the new store "will serve the community with low price quality goods and products from trusted brands, while providing approximately 12 new jobs for the community." The developer further states that the "project will aid the City of Avon in future development of this area," perhaps envisioning other commercial developments along County Road 155. The developer is hoping for a grand opening in mid-November 2019.

Without the orderly annexation agreement, this issue would surely have resulted in many battles between the Town and City and between those who support the proposal and those who do not. No matter what you think about the possible arrival of Dollar General, the good news is that our orderly annexation agreement has been a great tool fostering cooperation

between the City and Township. It shows that the City and Town can work together in an orderly way to address issues of interest to both City and Town residents.